

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 075315

R 300910 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0144

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

FARUEHCR/ AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 0503

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0727

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRN LY FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH COMPLAINTS IN LIBYA

1. TO HEAR HIM TELL IT, FRENCH EMB COUNSELOR CHARLES JEANTELOT IS FED TO THE GILLS WITH THE LARG. NO DOUBT AS AN OLDTIMER HERE, THREE YEARS, HIS DISENCHANTMENT WITH OUR HOSTS IS GETTING TO BE SOMETHING PERSONAL. NEVERTHELESS, HE CITES THE FOLLOWING THREE CASES OF GALLIC FRUSTRATION WHICH ARE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE:

A. LAST YEAR AFTER LONG AND COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS FRENCH EMBASSY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH LARG TO PROVIDE OVER 100 FRENCH GOVT DOCTORS, NURSES, AND TECHNICIANS TO STAFF NEW HOSPITAL HERE. LAST MONTH EMBASSY RECEIVED NOTE FROM MFA CANCELING THE AGREEMENT. NO EXPLANATION GIVEN, OR OBTAINABLE ORALLY EITHER. TWO WEEKS LATER IT ANNOUNCED YUGOSLAVIA HAD SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR SAME SERVICES.

B. EARLY MAY A NEWLY ARRIVED FRENCH PILOT FOR LAA WAS EXPELLED FROM LIBYA ON 48- HOUR, UNEXPLAINED
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NOTICE. JEANTELLOT HEARD INDIRECTLY LARG COMPLAINT WAS PILOT HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW A VISITOR TO COCKPIT. REVIEWING PASSENGER LIST AND CHECKING WITH STEWARDESS, JEANTELLOT PIECED TOGETHER FOLLOWING SCENARIO: RCC MEMBER MOHAMED NAJM WAS TRAVELING FIRST CLASS AND ASKED STEWARDESS TO SHOW A LIBYAN PASSENGER WHAT COCKPIT OPERATIONS LOOKED LIKE. STEWARDESS TOLD PILOT PASSENGER REQUESTED ENTRY. PILOT REFUSED BECAUSE HE WAS ON AN APPROACH FOR LANDING.

C. LAA " HAS DECIDED" TO SELL ITS REMAINING CARAVELLES TO MALTA AND PURCHASE THREE BOEINGS TO REPLACE THEM. JEANTELLOT SAID HE THOUGHT THE BOEINGS WERE TO BE 727' S AND THE TIMING WAS THIS SEPTEMBER. IN ANY CASE, HE CONSIDERED LAA' S PLANS TO DISPOSE OF THE CARAVELLES AS DIRTY POOL " CONSIDERING ALL THAT AIR FRANCE HAD DONE FOR LAA".

2. JEANTELLOT INDICATES HIS EMBASSY DOES NOT ALWAYS TAKE SUCH THINGS LYING DOWN. HE SAID THAT FOR SIX MONTHS LARG HAD REPEATEDLY STALLED ON SIGNING A PARTICULAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. WHEN RECENTLY THE LARG SUDDENLY WANTED TO SIGN IT, HE HAD INFORMED THEM GOF NOT PEPAED TO DO SO NOW.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DRAW CONCLUSION THE QUAI' S POLICY OF COURTING THE LAR HAS NOT PAID OFF IN SOME WAYS. BUT NEITHER IS IT A BED OF ROSES FOR THE FRENCH HERE. ALL OF THE ROSES WE KNOW ABOUT IN ANY DETAIL HAVE THORNS. THAT APPLIES TO THE MIRAGE TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM TOO, THOUGH IT REMAINS THE BASIS FOR ALL THE OTHER GOF EFFORTS AND THE MARGINALLY PREFERENTIAL POSITION FRANCE HOLDS AMONG THE WESTERN EUROPEAN POWERS HERE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR ETRN LY FR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TRIPOL00727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730556/aaaajxbm.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <05-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980310
Subject: FRENCH COMPLAINTS IN LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, n/a
To: AF
BEIRUT
CAIRO
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
TUNIS
VALLETTA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005